

**WE CLAIM:**

1. An apparatus for reading data encoded in a fault tolerant digital form printed in invisible ink on a surface of a card said surface bearing an image said apparatus  
5 comprising:

- a) scanning means for scanning in said encoded fault tolerant digital form of said data on said surface;
- b) means for processing said scanned data and for decoding said data into a secondary digital format;
- 10 c) means for outputting said secondary digital format to an output device with which said secondary digital format is usable;
- d) said output device presenting said data in a human readable form.

2. An apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein said data is encoded in a fault tolerant  
15 digital form using a Reed-Solomon process and said means for processing and decoding said data includes means for processing said Reed-Solomon process.

3. An apparatus is claimed in claim 2 wherein said output device includes a display device.

20 4. An apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein said invisible ink is an infra-red absorbing ink with negligible absorption in the visible spectrum